

Application No. 10/579,472  
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2010

IN THE DRAWINGS

Amendments to the Drawings are presented in a separate paper submitted herewith.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to insert section headings. The amendment to Claims 51, 55, 79 and 87, and newly-added Claim 114 are supported by the specification. No new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 51-114 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Chevalier for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their representative on April 20, 2010. During the discussion, amendments to overcome the outstanding rejections were discussed. The following remarks expand on the discussion with the Examiner.

As set forth in Claim 51, the present invention relates to a carrier having a finely fibrous topside,

where the carrier is provided with a dressing which has a grain texture having grain peaks and grain valleys on its face side,

where the dressing comprises a consolidated polymeric dispersion,

where the dressing is bonded to the carrier via a single thin bonding layer formed from a consolidated, polyurethane-containing polymeric dispersion and having been applied to the topside of the carrier,

where the dressing has capillaries which extend through its entire thickness, and

where the dressing has substantially the same thickness in the region of the grain peaks and in the region of the grain valleys.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The application provides a written description of the carrier set forth in Claim 51 and claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The claims have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action.

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In view of the foregoing, the claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The Drawings have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Section headings have been added to the specification.

Regarding the Restriction Requirement, since all of the pending claims depend directly or indirectly from Claim 51, the non-elected claims should be rejoined.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

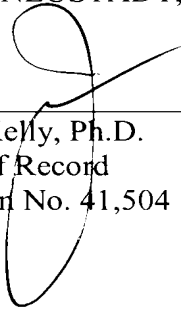
Respectfully submitted,

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